

Message Text

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70

ACTION PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 SS-15 PM-03 ACDA-05 PA-01 CIAE-00

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R 110305Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSSTATE WASHDC 1453

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 3952

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR,MPOL

SUBJ: US FORCE LEVELS IN THAILAND

REF: SECDEF 080442Z MAR 75

1. REFTEL REPORTING DOD PUBLIC RELEASE PUTS DEC 31, 1974 TROOP LEVEL IN THAILAND AT 23,000. THAT FIGURE APPROXIMATES NET STRENGTH FOR THAT PERIOD AND VARIES CONSIDERABLY FROM TOTAL AUTHORIZED STRENGTH.
2. USE OF NET STRENGTH ON THE PUBLIC RECORD MAY RAISE QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR PUBLIC AFFAIRS CREDIBILITY AND WEAKEN POSITION TO DISCUSS FORCE LEVELS WITH RTG ON BASIS OF CURRENT AUTHORIZED LEVEL.
3. DURING LAST WEEK OF DECEMBER 1974, WE USED ON BACKGROUND WITH NEWSMEN QTE ABOUT 25,000 UNQTE AS FORCE LEVEL. THAT FIGURE APPROXIMATES TOTAL ASSIGNED STRENGTH LEVEL DEC 31, 1974, INCLUDING PERSONNEL TEMPORARILY OUT OF COUNTRY ON TDY, LEAVE,ETC.
4. WHATEVER STRENGTH FIGURE IS TO BE USED PUBLICLY, IT IS CLEAR THAT TO AVOID CONFUSION ALL PUBLIC AFFAIRS CONTACT POINTS SHOULD USE THE SAME ONE. WE PROPOSE THE FOLLOWING:QTE THE AUTHORIZED LEVEL OF US FORCES IN THAILAND IS 27,000 BUT THERE MAY BE SOMEWHAT FEWER THAN THAT IN COUNTRY ON ANY PARTICULAR DAY BECAUSE OF TDY, CONFIDENTIAL

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LEAVE OR DELAY IN REPLACEMENT OF PERSONNEL. (IF PRESSED)

AS OF JAN 1, 1975 THERE WERE ABOUT 25,000 US MILITARY PERSONNEL
ASSIGNED IN THAILAND UNQTE.

5. WE BELIEVE THAT FOR PUBLIC DISCUSSION THE FORCE LEVEL SHOULD
BE HELD TO THOSE FIGURES IN PARA 4 UNTIL FURTHER REDUCTIONS ARE
AGREED TO AND JOINTLY ANNOUNCED BY THE USG AND RTG.
KINTNER

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Message Attributes

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